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FLD 853

INFORMATION REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL

CD NO.

COUNTRY Yugoslavia

DATE DISTR. 28 JUL 50

25X1 SUBJECT Survey of the Coal Industry in Yugoslavia

NO. OF PAGES 4

25X1

NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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Bituminous Coal Fields

1. Serbia

   a. Timok coal fields: Located in the Timok River valley area of Eastern Serbia and include the following mines:

      Rtanj near Boljevac
      Vrska Cuka near Zajecar
      Tresibaba
      Dobra Srece near Knjazevac

      The calorific value of the coal varies from 6,500 to 7,000 with a mean sulphur content of 5 percent. Little increase in production has been made under the Five Year Plan because the seams are poor.

   b. Ibar coal fields: Located in the Ibar River valley area in Southern Serbia and include the important Jarando mines. The mean calorific value varies from 6,500 to 7,000 and the mean sulphur content is 5 percent. The Five Year Plan provides for an increase of 240,000 tons on the 1939 figure.

2. Istria

   a. The Arsa coal fields are located in Southern Istria. The mean calorific value is between 6,500 and 7,000 and the mean sulphur content is 7 percent. Pending installation of Five Year Plan equipment, production is fixed at about 1,000,000 tons per year.

3. Bosnia

   a. Big bituminous reserves have been discovered at Majevica Planina, just north of Tuzla, and preparations are under way for exploiting them. The calorific value is 6,400. A process for coking this coal has been developed, and a big coking plant is to be built at Tuzla.

Lignite Coal Fields

4. Serbia

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a. Kosovo fields: A few pits have recently been opened and await mechanical equipment. Production, at present, is very limited.

5. Bosnia

a. Kreka combine: One of the most important lignite producers in Yugoslavia, the product of this mine is of excellent quality and is used for coking. There are forty-three pits there at present, and it is planned to open another thirty. Production is rated at approximately 2,000 tons daily, and is still 20 to 30 percent below the target fixed by the Five Year Plan.*

b. Tuzla fields: Includes pits at Tuzla, Bukonje and Puracic. The mean calorific value is 3,800. The proved reserves of the Kreka and Tuzla fields are 600,000,000 tons.

Brown Coal Fields

6. Bosnia and Hercegovina

a. Banovici field: This is one of the richest, if not the richest, brown coal field in Yugoslavia. Coal lies nearly on the surface and is mined by the open cast process. Production is now over 2,000,000 tons per annum. This is largely attributable to improved communications and the construction of the Brcko-Banovivi railway line.

b. Zenica fields: These include the Zenica, Kakanj and Breza mines. The mean calorific value of the coal is 4,120, which is of good quality.

c. Ugljevik field: The mean calorific value is 4,000. The coal is of good quality. The proved reserves of the Bosnia brown coal fields are 200,000,000 tons and unproved 750,000,000 tons.

d. The following mines are exhausted and due to close down:

Priboj (on Prijepolje-Sarajevo railroad)
Kotar Vares (southeast of Banja Luka)
Ramici (near Bosanski Novi)
Cerovica Ljesljani (near Foca)

Large new seams are reported to have been found at Bilo near Travnik (20 kilometers west of Zenica) and Fojnica (30 kilometers south of Zenica.

7. Croatia

a. Livno field: Poor transportation, obsolete equipment and poor quality have helped to keep production in this field low. Most of the coal is sent to Split and Sibenik. The Livno mines also include Sinj.

b. Northeast Croatia: The following are mines in this area:

Bilo Gora mines
Ivan Polje
Radoboj
Mursko Sredisto
Budinscina
Golubovec
Ratkovica
Posavski Bregi

Equipment is these mines is obsolete, the seams are rapidly becoming exhausted and production is low. The Government does not intend to invest any money in these mines.

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8. Slovenia

a. Trbovlje field: This field includes the Trbovlje, Lasko and Hrastnik mines. The brown coal produced has a mean calorific value of 4,220. Mean production is currently 4,600,000 tons. Capacity production is now almost reached because mining equipment is worn, and the mines are located in deep valleys which make any extension of the separation and railroad yards difficult. Railroad loading has almost reached its limits - 1,800 cars a day.

b. Senovo field: This is an important field, located near Rajhenburg, with proved reserves amounting to 73,000,000 tons.

Production

9. Targets

a. The final targets for the Five Year Plan, in 1951, are:

Bituminous coal		2,000,000 tons
Brown coal		11,000,000 tons
Lignite		3,000,000 tons
	Total	16,000.000 tons

b. The target figures for the years 1948, 1949, 1950, are based on a percentage of the final 1951 target figures.

Target 1948	60 percent	9,600,000 tons
Target 1949	80 percent	12,800,000 tons
Target 1950	90 percent	14,400,000 tons

These target figures do not include coke. The targets do, however, include Arsa production, which is calculated at 1,000,000 tons per annum, and do not provide for any increases arising from modernization of these mines.

c. In 1946, production barely reached pre-war figures. In 1949, the total coal production amounted to 9,900,000 tons - i.e. 2,900,000 tons short of that year's target, and only 62 percent of the final 1951 target figure.

Reasons for Low Production

10. One of the greatest problems facing the Yugoslav Government is the coal shortage resulting from the fact that the mining industry is unable to achieve its targets. The main reasons for this are as follows:

a. The overall increase of coal production as provided by the Five Year Plan was to be achieved, not so much by the opening of new mines, as by the modernization and mechanization of existing ones. Since the Cominform rift, Hungary and Czechoslovakia have not delivered any mechanical mining equipment, and this has inevitably affected production.

b. A serious labor shortage, due principally to:

1) Higher labor demands following less mechanization.

2) Heavy labor demands from other industries.

3) Drift of labor from the mines to lower paid but more agreeable industries.

4) Slow mechanization of agriculture, and consequent reduction of flow of agricultural workers to mines and industry, and desertion of mining recruits to the land during the harvest seasons.

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The Yugoslav Government aimed to draw off 1,000,000 agricultural workers into mining and industry. To date it has only succeeded in drawing off 600,000. The short balance was felt most in the mining industry, where, in 1949, the mines were operated with only 65 percent of the required personnel.

11. In the summer of 1949, the mining industry faced a very serious crisis arising from the fact that a very high proportion of recruits had left the mines to help on the land. Production had fallen so steeply that the Yugoslav Communist Party, for the first time in its history, called upon Party members to leave their offices and work in the mines. In September 1949, all Communist Party cells received orders that at least two cell members must serve in the mines for a period of three months beginning from 1 October and ending 31 December.*

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12. With the help of these Communist Party miners, the mining industry succeeded in covering the basic coal requirements of the railroads. Following the release of these miners, estimated by source at 110,000, on 31 December, the labor situation in the mines has, once again, become acute. In Croatia alone, since 1 January, 1950, over 90,000 industrial workers and miners have to be found if the 1949 level of production is to be maintained in the first quarter of 1950.

13. With this situation in mind, the Federal Government has recently enacted new labor laws calculated to prevent the drift from the mines and freeze employment. These laws provide that every "voluntary" worker must "voluntarily" sign an undertaking to the effect that he will not leave his employment without the permission and approval of the director and/or the chief of the personnel department of the undertaking in which he works. This was more or less the situation before the promulgation of the new laws, the difference being in the fact that whereas in the past no sanctions existed, today managements can sentence offenders to up to two years forced labor in the undertaking in which they had been working, and restrict their movements in non-working hours to camps under police supervision.

25X1 [redacted] Comment: [redacted] several of these Communist Party miners, all of whom complained of the hard conditions in the mines, the poor food, 25X1 et cetera. None of them volunteered to work after 31 December. The only advantage they retained over the ordinary miners was that, instead of being paid piece rates, they received the salaries they enjoyed in their normal employment.